



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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CYPERUS RIVULARIS **SHINING FLATSEGE**

Shining Flatsedge is a grass-like annual that forms tufts of slender stems which are 5-20 cm high. The few leaves occur near the base of the plant and are 1-2 mm wide. The flowers consist of a small, blunt scale with a pale, ca. 2-3 mm long midrib, that subtends a single stamen and ovary. The flowers are crowded opposite each other into flattened spikelets that are 3-15 mm long. Spikelets occur in open clusters borne on very short to long stalks arising from the stem tips. The inflorescence is subtended by 2-4 leaf-like bracts, at least one of which is longer than the inflorescence. The seed is lens shaped. Fruit mature in August-September.

CYPERUS ACUMINATUS, *C. ARISTATUS*, and *C. ERYTHORRHIZOS* all have scales with pointed or short, awn-tipped scales, unlike the blunt scale of *C. RIVULARIS*.